

# *Documents on Diplomacy: The Source*

## *A Considerable Influence at Work* *A Dispatch from Charles Francis Adams to Secretary Seward, No. 1* *Department of State, Washington, May 17, 1861*

Sir: I have the satisfaction to announce my safe arrival at this place on Monday evening, the 13th of this month. . . . Under other circumstances I might have . . . delayed my departure [from Liverpool] for twenty-four hours. But on the other hand, some incidental allusions to the state of things in London convinced me of the importance of losing no time on my way. . . . I presented my credentials, with a few words expressive of the desire of my government to maintain the friendly relations existing between the two countries; and thus I became the recognized minister.

Thus an end is put to all the speculations which have been set afloat in some quarters for interested purposes touching the probable position of the minister of the United States at this court. I might add, that so far I have every reason to be fully satisfied with the reception which I have met with from everybody. Fortunately the news which came from the United States by the same steamer which brought me was calculated to dispel many of

the illusions that had been industriously elaborated during the period of isolation of the city of Washington, and to confirm the faith of those who had permitted themselves to doubt whether all government in the United States was of any more cohesiveness than a rope of sand. Yet I cannot say that the public opinion is yet exactly what we would wish it. Much depends upon the course of things in the United States, and the firmness and energy made visible in the direction of affairs.

The morning papers contain a report of the debate in the House of Lords on the Queen's proclamation, to which I beg to call your particular attention. I cannot say that the tone of it is generally such as I could wish. There is undoubtedly a considerable influence at work here both in and out of the ministry which must be met and counteracted at as early a moment as practicable. . . .

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS

### *Source*

United States Department of State, *Message of the President of the United States to the two houses of Congress, at the commencement of the second session of the thirty-seventh congress*, Vol. I [Washington, D.C.: 1861]

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